(c) whether it is a fact that ceiling j prices concept of formulation prices is given rise to undue price increases due to its normative nature; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to do away with this concept and fix the formulation prices on the basis of actual costs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The prices of drugs have also increased in the last three years. Based on the wholesale price index 1981-82 = 100, the price of drugs and medicines on 13 11-93 was 186.5 (provisional) as against 128.6 in the last week of December, 1987. Revision of the exchange value of Rupee to foreign currencies in 1991 and the full convertibility of Rupee on trade account have resulted rather sharp increase in the prices of medicines, particularly those which have imported content.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Recovery of dues from Drug Companies

14. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Wll the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 429 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th August, 1993 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no serious efforts have been made to recover the amounts due from drug companies during the last three years ;

(b) the steps taken to recover the dues;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in recovery of the amount due when Supreme Court Judgement and legal opinion is also available;

(a) what is the purpose behind constituting a group and at what stage the matter stands ;

(e) whether it is a fact that recovery has become almost a decade old and the department is not taking it seriously ; and

(f) what is the latest position and by when total amount due would be recovered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The liabilities in 68 cases amounting to Rs. 254.58 crores have been assessed. Amount of Rs. 18.27 crores has been recovered. Some companies have challenged the liabilities in Courts and the amount involved in these matters is about Rs. 174 crores.

Production and Import of Bulk Drugs

15. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that import of bulk drugs and intermediates during 1992-93 increased manifold as compared to earlier years and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that production of bulk drugs has declined during the past three years and that maximum decline in production at constant prices took place in 1992-93;

(c) what are the names of individual monitored bulk drugs for which the production declined during 1992-93 as compared to the earler years; and

(d) what steps have been taken to reduce imports and arrest decline in domestic production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of import of